



Salinan Nation
Cultural Preservation Association

Salinan T'rowt'raahl Tribal Community 501(c)(3) Non Profit

Jose' Freeman - President

Gregg Castro - Secretary/Treasurer

Honorable Sam Farr
U.S. Representative, 17th District, California

Dear Sir:

I would like to take this opportunity to once again thank you on behalf of our Salinan indigenous community for your efforts in protecting our homeland. Your hard work in preventing the Navy's proposal for bombing training at Ft. Hunter Liggett is especially appreciated, given the potential disastrous effects on our cultural heritage in the area. Although the increased activity at FHL is of great concern to us, the Navy's plan would have been vastly more impacting then we are now experiencing. *Xayatspanee* – thank you for your work.

Our cultural preservation organization continues its never-ending efforts in protecting our ancient heritage. We also work to educate the public on the native world view that all parts of our homeland, whether it be biological, environmental, archaeological or other aspect, are of equal importance. Our efforts are focused on cultural resources, as this is our area of expertise. We have sought others in collaborating on other aspects of our homeland that also need protecting. We saw this work well in our collaborations against the Navy's proposal and under your leadership, it was successful. We now write to you to support your current efforts in protecting our homeland with the hope of similar success.

Our organization is joining with Friends of the River and others in advocating for the designation of our critical waterways as "Wild and Scenic." This is a huge leap in protection for the cultural areas that we have been working so hard to care for since time began. In more recent years, the greatly increased visitors to sensitive places of our homeland have amplified the negative impacts on resources in a number of areas.

We were successful a few years ago in getting the National Forest Service in designating some especially important areas as one "Special Interest Area (SIA)." This area of approximately 2000 acres and designated as the Milpitas SIA, runs along the San Antonio River toward the Big Sur area around Serra Peak (what we call *Sta'yokale*, our most sacred place). The SIA designation does not confer any additional legal protections but only encourages the development of specific management plans that address the issues of "special interest." Los Padres National Forest (LPNF) has not yet assigned the resources to address such management plans. Yet, the need is becoming more urgent. That is why we strongly endorse the proposal to designate the nine rivers in the "Ventana Wild Rivers" proposal as "Wild and Scenic". This designation will provide the minimal protection needed for all natural resources within their designated areas.

Our ancestors have taught us that all of creation is bound together and dependant on one another to make it the beautiful gift that it is. The environmental and biological resources that will be protected by the Wild and Scenic designation will have a positive effect on the related cultural resources in those same areas. We hope that this would make possible the comprehensive management of all aspects of the landscape that are along these vital water streams. Such a focus will further the protection to our critical cultural resources that are in each of these watersheds as well.

We would be happy to discuss this further if this is desirable. Please contact me at the email below or call me at 408/980-6879 (work number) if there is any help we might lend to the effort.

Xayatspanee – thank you.

Sincerely,

Gregg Castro.